

Letter from the Chairman

This report chronicles the activities of PERAC and the Massachusetts Public Employee Retirement Systems during the year 2001. That year, for very different reasons, is one that will forever remain in our memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11, and with their loved ones, as well as with those who serve in the armed forces presently engaged in the struggle to defeat the evil that perpetrated those attacks.

As the Commission approaches its sixth anniversary, it has established a solid record of achievement. In implementing the post retirement monitoring of disabled members, expanding educational programs, and increasing audit services, the Commission has achieved the goals that it set forth upon its creation. At the same time, efforts in the areas of actuarial, legal, investment, technology, and communication have been enhanced to enable the Commission and staff to better serve the retirement boards and, through the boards, the members of the retirement systems.

Education has formed the cornerstone of PERAC's commitment to serving the retirement boards. We are pleased to be offering an intensive course at

UMass, Amherst from July 28 through July 31 that will provide insight on a variety of topics from PERAC staff as well as distinguished outside lecturers. We urge all Board Members and Administrators to attend.

Since the last report was issued, there have been a number of changes to the composition of the Commission. The Governor's Representative is Bob Costrell, and Chris Alberti has been appointed by Governor Swift. Bob and Chris join Auditor Joseph DeNucci, AFL-CIO Representative Ken Donnelly, former Arlington Town Manager Don Marquis and newly appointed Public Safety Representative Jim Machado.

In closing, on behalf of the Commission and staff, I want to express our thanks to John Abbott, one of the original Commission members, who served from 1997 to 2002. As the Commission struggled with the challenges of its early years, John's leadership and steadying influence helped set the groundwork for the success that is reflected in this report. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Tierney
Chairman

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